

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are at issue. Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sawada (6,002,615). Claim 1 stands rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Endo et al (6,542,424). Claims 2-7 & 9-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 16-20 are allowed.

FIG. 1 has been modified to add the legend "Prior Art" and is enclosed.

Claim 2 has been cancelled and its limitation have been incorporated into claim

1. Claim 1 should now be allowable.

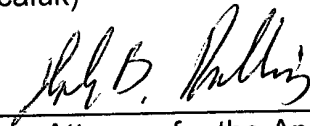
Claim 9 has been cancelled and its limitation have been incorporated into claim

8. Claim 8 should now be allowable.

Prompt reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

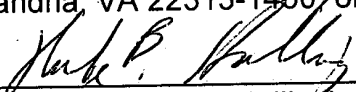
(Moscaluk)

By 
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I hereby certify that an Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

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Signature (Dale Halling)